

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Summary of Lake Berryessa Community Forum Meeting

Date: February 27, 2013

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Lake Berryessa Senior Center

Status of ongoing actions at Lake Berryessa:

The Pensus appeal and stay request have been dismissed by the Office of Hearings and Appeals; consequently, the decision by the Mid-Pacific Regional Director as the Contracting Officer is upheld and the Pensus contract is terminated.

Interim concession contract discussions with the Fraziers at Markley Cove are ongoing. Initial contact with the Fraziers and Forever Resorts for interim operations at the other concession areas, including identifying the scopes of those contracts, has begun and will be completed after an interim contract is finalized for Markley Cove.

Two of the previous Pensus concession sites, Manzanita Canyon (Rancho Monticello) and Blue Oaks (Berryessa Marina), remain closed. Lupine Shores (Steele Park), Foothill Pines (Spanish Flat) and Chaparral Cove (Putah Creek) are open and under Reclamation operations for day use and boat launch. Interim contracts at those three open areas will add camping and overnight recreation. Reclamation is moving to develop a scope of work for services and construction to support interim concession contractors including items such as roads, wells, embankment stabilizations and more. The plan is for interim contracts to be awarded for services to begin in May 2013 and a construction contract to be awarded by the middle or the end of summer for work over the winter. More information and progress on interim contracts and service and construction contracts will be provided at upcoming meetings.

An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact and a land use agreement have been issued by Reclamation for the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District upgrades.

Introduction of the Forum Coordinating Team:

Each Coordinating Team member represents a stakeholder group, and the members drew to determine initial term lengths:

Susan Sedillo: represents broad based interest group, 2 years.

Craig Morton: represents local businesses, 2 years.

Tracey Renee: represents local residents, 2 years.

Chris Lee: represents water quality and water supply, 2 years.

Lt. Doug Pike: represents public safety and service, 2 years.

Nancy Tamarisk, represents conservation groups, 1 year.

Michael Haley: represents land based recreation, 1 year.

Lonny Lopez: represents water-based recreation, 1 year.

John Donlevy: represents gateway communities, 1 year.

George Gamble: represents local ranchers, 1 year.

George Gamble and Nancy Tamarisk were unable to attend the meeting. No Fish and Wildlife Management stakeholders were nominated. Reclamation is trying to contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to find a representative and is welcoming nominations for that vacant seat.

Forum discussion:

With help from Facilitator Greg Bourne, the Forum reviewed the selection process of soliciting nominations, reviewing them using the selection criteria, and notifying nominees. Bourne also reviewed the charter and ground rules for the Forum, which were available to attendees and Coordinating Team members at the meeting.

Reclamation has yet to make final determinations regarding the concession area names and is in discussions with Department of the Interior attorneys regarding Reclamation's ability to use previous names or variations of those names. Reclamation hopes to post naming options on the website within the next week and will notify coordinating team members when that happens. Once these naming options are posted, the public is asked to provide comments, input and additional naming recommendations to their stakeholder representatives.

Topics for discussion at the next meeting were initially identified as including effects of budget sequestration on Reclamation operations and interim contract opportunities at Markley Cove, Lupine Shores (Steele Park), Foothill Pines (Spanish Flat), Chaparral Cove (Putah Creek), and Oak Shores. Coordinating Team members asked that the timeline, plan and budget for concession services be included on the agenda for next month.

Comments and Questions:

Reclamation received several comments that requested identification of priorities, along with a timeline or plan for development of concession areas at Lake Berryessa, as well as information regarding the funding for Reclamation support of that development. The comments stressed the urgent local desire for development. Reclamation has committed to identifying the timeline and posting it on the website prior to the March 27, 2013, meeting.

Reclamation received several comments expressing concern and requesting information about the access road and launch ramp at Lupine Shores (Steele Park). At present, the access to Lupine Shores (Steele Park) is free under Reclamation operation, and discussions to acquire use rights from the former concessionaire are continuing.

Reclamation received several comments regarding the Chamber of Commerce seeking an individual to sit in Reclamation meetings for oversight. Reclamation will take it under consideration, but it is the role of the Forum to provide information and explain the agency's decisions and decision-making process. Internal agency meetings provide an opportunity for staff to candidly discuss issues, opportunities and constraints and may include discussion of protected information such as budget and personnel items that cannot be disclosed to the public.

Reclamation received other comments/questions regarding disposition of supplemental surcharges in concession areas, fees for concession areas for the coming recreation season, fire plans in concession areas, road signage, diversity of recreation opportunities in concession areas, marketing plans for concession areas, and need for trail development pathway.

Next Steps:

Stakeholders should contact their Coordinating Team members with opinions and concerns so that Coordinating Team members may raise them at future meetings. Coordinating Team members should contact Park Manager Jeff Laird with potential agenda items for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be Wed, March 27, 2013, 1:30-3:30 p.m., in the Public Safety Facility Training Room, 700 Main St., Winters, CA 95694.

For questions or comments regarding Lake Berryessa, contact Park Manager Jeff Laird, either by email (JLaird@usbr.gov), mail (Lake Berryessa Office, Park Manager, 5520 Knoxville RD., Napa CA 94558) or by phone (707-966-2111, ext 0).

For additional information, please visit the Lake Berryessa website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/berryessa> and click on “Recreation Updates” in the light-blue navigation column on the left.